

Texas LAUNCH



Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

Workgroup Updates - November 15, 2018

Developmental Screening

- The Texas LAUNCH Project Director presented on the Benefits of Developmental Screenings for the Child, Family and Child Care Center at the TAEYC conference.
- Adriana with Texans Cares for Children provided a presentation based off the data analyzed from their Medical Provider Developmental Screening Assessment. The presentation identifying gaps in services and discussed ways to optimize developmental screening in pediatric settings.
- Jacquie and Tamala with TEA shared a mockup of ECDataWorks a program designed in a coordinated effort with TEA and TWC through a grant from the Kellogg foundation. The ECDataWorks program gathers data provided by child care centers (primarily TRS providers) and makes it searchable providing the following resources:
 - Ready Communities-Helps identify early childhood educators (public K, pre-K and TRS providers) in the areas and provides resources on how to connect with them.
 - Ready Schools- Provides information on the capacity of schools to provide high quality early learning opportunities and educator training.
 - Ready Students-Identifies the needs of students entering kindergarten in the area.
 - System Alignment-Provides information on how the early childhood system in a specific area is preparing to support early learners form infancy to kindergarten.
- Texas LAUNCH Project Director provided content for the TEA Preschool Development Grant that included incorporating more ASQ TOT trainings and convening a workgroup to look at creating a plan to make Developmental Screenings available statewide with a data collection component.
- Texas LAUNCH Project Director had an article published in the WIC October Newsletter that provided an overview of Texas LAUNCH and provided an opportunity to have WIC providers trained to provide ASQ screenings to children receiving WIC benefits.
- Texas LAUNCH Project Director had a call with WIC, Pritzker's, and MHMR to discuss how WIC could incorporate Developmental Screenings into their client services in Tarrant County.
- The Healthy Child Care Texas- Social Emotional Development (HCCT-SED) grant is underway and the first ASQ TOT training for Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC) is taking place Dec 12-14th in Fort Worth.

Next Steps:

- Follow up with the Preschool Development Grant, if funding is received.
- Follow up with WIC if opportunities for Developmental Screenings can be incorporated into their services or promoted in their clinics.
- Work with Texans Cares to help brainstorm ideas to help alleviate some of the gaps identified in their pediatric assessment.
- Support HCCT-SED in their efforts to train CCHC as ASQ TOT's and implement steps to prepare CCHC to train childcare center staff on the ASQ tools in the Fort Worth area.
- Provide recommendations for TRS to incorporate developmental screenings into their standards, once open for public opinion.
- Provide recommendations for the next iteration of the EDDDataWorks to collect developmental screening data under the Ready Students tab.

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Family Strengthening Workgroup

- Family Strengthening Workgroup members reviewed a draft of the seven Parent Cafe (PC) and Incredible Years (IY) recruitment flyers currently used and shared by the expansion communities. The group was asked to identify the strengths of each document. A list of strengths and suggestions for revising the flyers was compiled and three mock flyers were developed.
- The Workgroup also reviewed parent testimonials provided by each of the communities and approved for use by the parents, to determine which testimonial seemed most appropriate to be included in the mockup of flyers. The intent was to develop a set of flyers that included all recommendations and testimonials that are more parent friendly, took the stigma out of and normalized parenting education. In addition, expansion communities may be able to use stories and quotes from the parents within their own community who have provided comments as part of the evaluation process.
- An IY Community of Learners call was held September 18th. Participants include the four major IY and PC trainers in each of the expansion communities. The IY Facilitator from Child Care Associates in Ft. Worth was the only one on the call and reviewed the draft of flyers. Child Care Associates will be utilizing the flyers in their next recruitment efforts in their Early Head Start program. Other expansion communities reviewed the flyers and will utilize in their next round of recruitment for IY and PC classes.
- A draft of IY and PC recruitment flyers was disseminated to each of the expansion communities. Ft. Worth will be using the recruitment flyers as part of their efforts to address Health and Behavioral Health disparities in the Las Vegas Trails community.

Next Steps:

- Review response in recruitment efforts utilizing recruitment materials during monthly calls with expansion communities
- Disseminate recruitment flyers with those who participated in the April IY training
- Review suggested list for partnering and distribution of flyers to other community providers receptive to implementing IY and PC
- Next IY Community of Learners call 12.18.18 (tentative)
- Next FSW monthly call 12.20.18 (tentative)

Mental Health Consultation:

- Hosted Amy Hunter from Georgetown University's Center for Excellence in ECMHC for a MHC Training of Trainers: trained 37 participants that included mental health professionals, infant mental health specialists, directors and managers, workforce solution professionals, professors, and state stakeholders. Training increased capacity of participants to have the tools needed to promote the understanding and use of MHC.
- Hosted a meeting of seven different Early Childhood Community Coalition/Council Leaders from across the state engaging in discussion around MHC efforts in their areas and how involved/uninvolved their local coalitions are. Meeting garnered recommendations to the state workgroup including the need to share the MHC definition widely, have the state identify ECI providers as early childhood providers and have a platform for data that is being collected at the direct service level.

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- Hosted the Pyramid Model Training (CSEFEL) training for 89 participants. There were two tracks of training aligned with the first three levels of the state infant and early childhood mental health endorsement system. The targeted audience included front line staff, early intervention providers, therapists, LMSW, school psychologists, and behavior specialists operating within key early childhood systems of services. The intent was to build the capacity of front line providers in promoting the social emotional development of young children and prevent the development of behavioral health concerns.
- Hosted the Pyramid Model Training of Trainers event for 49 participants that included behavioral health and special education specialists, state agency staff, CCDBG mentor/coaches, mental health and Head Start staff. Targeted audience included those who are responsible for supporting the professional development of early childhood providers within each of the key early childhood programs (CCL, subsidized childcare, Head Start/Early Head Start, and Pre K). The intent is to build a sustainable infrastructure of training and MHC support across the state.
- Continued conversations with individuals involved with Mental Health Consultation (trainers, funders, and state organizations) to address workforce development plan for Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Learned that the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health is the new Region 6 South South-West Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (SSW-MHTTC) with intention to focus some attention on training/education for MHC's.
- State team released the [*Texas Early Childhood Mental Health System: State of the State in 2018*](#) report that looked at structures of Texas ECMH systems, best practices in ECMH, and recommendations.

Next Steps:

- Schedule three meetings in last year of LAUNCH
- Begin disseminating information across state on MHC
- Continued discussion around preferred MHC competencies in Texas

Suspension/Expulsion Workgroup:

- Reviewed the [*State and Local Action to Prevent Expulsion and Suspension in Early Learning Settings*](#) report document to glean ideas from other state policies and support the completion of the [Suspension Expulsion Tool Kit](#) provided by the State Capacity Building Center (SCBC).
- Completed a strategic planning session facilitated by the State Capacity Building Center. There were 17 participants including representation from the TX Head Start Collaboration Office, OHS, TWC, SCBC, LAUNCH, TEA, CCL, ECI, Private Childcare Managers, Parent Representative, and a local school district Pre-K leader. Group worked through the [*Building a Comprehensive State Policy Strategy to Prevent Expulsion from Early Learning Settings, 2nd Edition*](#) tool which allowed strategic planning priorities and goals to rise to the surface. Some short term goals include: the continuation of identifying what partners should be at the table, marketing the Texas suspension/expulsion definitions along with creating a definition for positive teacher/child interactions, identifying a family engagement goal, explore the possibility of changing Pre-K ratios and group size, and sharing reports that have important data already gathered.

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- Created a strategic plan outline, based off *Building a Comprehensive State Policy Strategy to Prevent Expulsion from Early Learning Settings, 2nd Edition tool*, and began discussions around assignment of activities, timelines and persons to short-term goals.
- Research was completed on different definitions/terms/usage of positive teacher/child interaction – from which a few draft definitions were created for review and discussion. Group members provided feedback and will finalize for the use of this group at next meeting.

Next Steps:

- Continue to discuss and address identified short and long-term goals with assigned activities, timelines and responsible parties;
- Finalize and disseminate the Texas Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Matrix;
- Finalize and disseminate definitions.